



Colorado
Cross-Disability
Coalition

SB 13-058 Amendment

Problem:

Disabled parking has a huge amount of abuse by people who use the tags of family and friends who have died. While many of us have permanent disabilities, there are people whose disabilities do improve to the point where they no longer need a disabled parking permit. Moreover, other people with disabilities may become unable to drive or no longer have a vehicle. While some of these individuals continue to use a permit to ride with friends or family, others have their permits taken by unscrupulous family member, caregivers, etc.

Is renewal and ongoing verification of a permanent disability is overly burdensome and intrusive? While it is annoying to have to continually prove disability, that is common and is accepted practice in all other areas of government. Every other state agency that administers any sort of disability program has much more rigid standards for disability determination.

Is it too expensive to have to see a medical professional to get the paperwork signed? CCDC has known very few individuals with disabilities severe enough to qualify for a parking permit, who do not see a medical professional regularly. We are not aware of anyone who has been able to avoid contact with medical professionals for nine years. Most medical professionals do not charge an established patient for signing a simple form. There may be someone out there who is not hooked up with a medical professional for whom this may be a burden. If that is the case CCDC or another advocacy organization can assist that individual. This extremely rare possibility should not be allowed to dictate public policy in a manner that causes harm to the entire population of people with disabilities that rely on these spaces for accessibility.

Solution: Assure that the renewal process cuts off of the abuse by requiring at least "proof of life" every three years and verifies the continuing disability by asking for a physician signature every nine years.

Proposed Amendment:

Either renew by mail with a medical professional (doctor, nurse, physician assistant, etc.) signature every three years *or*

A person can renew their tag at the county clerk in person with a photo ID every three years and only get a medical provider to verify every nine years.

This is a fair compromise that balances the integrity of the system with the individual convenience of not having to verify too much, too often.